

Editorial Remarks

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established the present Constitution of the State, with all its perhaps too severe features towards rebels and rebel sympathizers. This was their victory of principle. Their victory as a party occurred at the National Republican Convention at Baltimore. The Conservative delegation, instructed to vote for the re-nomination of Lincoln, the first choice of every other State, was rejected in favor of the Radical delegation, which alone cast its vote against Lincoln and for Grant on the first ballot.

Since the abolition of slavery the path of Missouri has been onward and upward towards prosperity, and, if the tale with which this article is commenced be true, who can estimate the indirect influence which has been exerted over the fate of a great State by so simple a thing as a woman's choice of a husband.

EDITORIAL REMARKS.

The present number closes the volume of 1869, and closes also a three years editorship of the ANNALS of the present incumbent. In view of many considerations involved in our future relation to it, we have good reason for regarding it also as the end of our editorial management of it. As it is, our occupancy of its historical tripod has continued nearly double the time of any one of our three predecessors; and the historical matter published in its pages exceeds by over four hundred pages the amount contributed and procured by all who have preceded us in this field of labor. Therefore, with a profound consciousness of the many imperfections and shortcomings of our work, we have fewer misgivings than as it had been in its results less abundant.

We review with pleasurable sensations now, the solicitude of our early experience with its duties, and the persistent, almost painful, solicitation we made with those who hold the keys to the kind of knowledge desired by which its pages have been filled; and we have this self-gratification that if we have not been able to strike satisfactorily every vein of State History, it is because of obstacles insurmountable with the means at our command, and of a character to be fully appreciated only when tried. Prominently are these: it is only comparatively few of the men who carry in their memories the facts of the early years of the State, who can be excited into the uncompensated trouble of a written record of their remembrances. Many who are the only remaining participators in important transactions find insurmountable difficulties in the way of a preparation of articles for publication, and co-operative aid is only rarely at hand to secure them.

But, in despite of these and other obstacles in the way, we have seen the little pamphlet grow to a magazine of a hundred pages quarterly in our hands, and learned to feel a pride in it, and a love for it that is only felt for objects which have required great care and anxiety for their success; and we shall long treasure the volumes, and the pages of those contributors who have aided and rejoiced us in vicissitudes of which our readers wot not of, and will be looked upon with a sentiment akin to that of the countenances of old and tried friends.

This leads us to a word personal, concerning a *few* of our contributors. It will be noticable by the readers of the ANNALS that a few names will be found as contributors in every number of every volume of our three years editorship. To these we take this manner of returning our thanks, and in behalf of the Society its thanks for the aid so patiently and profitably given; and without disparagement or inappreciativeness in feeling, or its appearance in expression, of the efforts of transient contributors, many of whose productions are of excellent merit and great importance, we refer specially to a few who have been "with and of" the ANNALS in consecutive numbers for years.

Of these, the historical papers of CHARLES NEGUS entitle him to the great gratitude of the people of this Commonwealth. As a clear and elegant writer of historical incidents, he has few superiors anywhere, and we speak for his sketches a high degree of importance in the future compilation of our State History.

SAMUEL PRENTIS CURTIS is another whose name has become as a "household word" to our readers. It has been the misfortune of Mr. Curtis to write upon a historic subject of but little present interest, though of signal importance to the future. These descriptions of campaigns and battles, which are to the present reader "like stories oft told," will ultimately be sought both by the participant and the historical student, when the impartiality of their statements will be important in settling the equities of fame due the men and armies of which they treat, and the writer's simplicity of arrangement, copiousness of fact, and graceful perspicuity of style, become appreciated and a model. He deserves well of the gratitude of the people.

ELIPHALET PRICE, who glittered brilliantly through a year and a half of our pages, deserves our thanks for his papers and the censure of the public that he does not write more.

But we must not occupy space in personation. These few we believed specially due for *continued help*, while our gratitude for ourself and in behalf of the State Historical Society, goes out to *every* contributor to its pages.

THE JANUARY NUMBER is expected to contain an interesting article of the Scientific History of the State, by Prof. Hinrichs and Chas. W. Irish, Esq., relative to the total Solar Eclipse of 1869, from observations taken at the State University, Iowa City.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of Judge Carleton, by the editor, is crowded out of this number, out of deference to the excellent contributions of others. It may appear in a future number.

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